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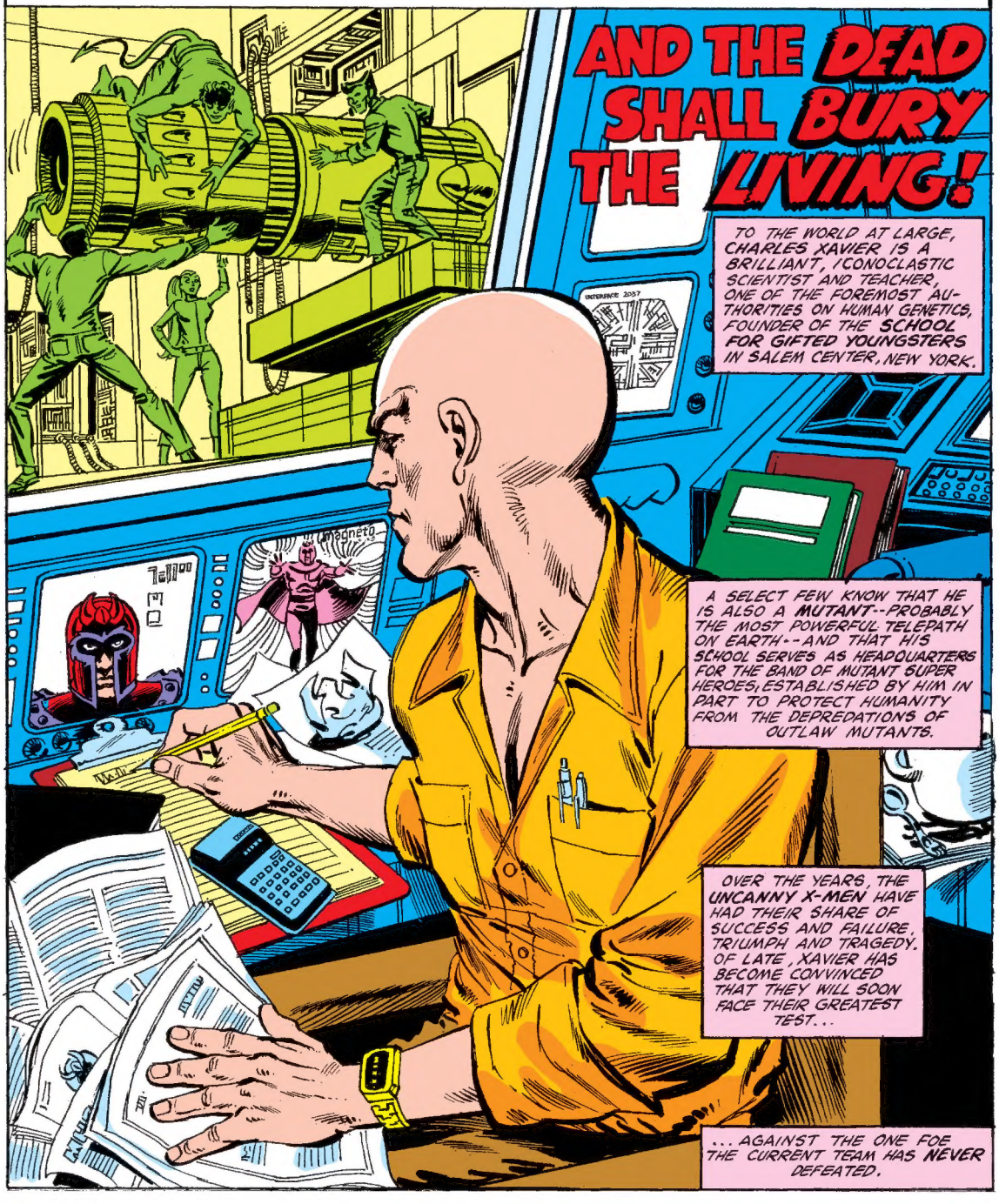
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
AND THE DEAD SHALL BURY THE LIVING!
Cockrum & Rubinstein

Cyclops. Storm. Nightcrawler. Wolverine. Colossus. Children of the atom, students of Charles Xavier, MUTANTS — feared and hated by the world they have sworn to protect. These are the STRANGEST heroes of all!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE UNCANNY X-MEN!™

CHRIS CLAREMONT WRITER / DAVE COCKRUM & JOSEF RUBINSTEIN ARTISTS / JANICE CHIANG LETTERER / GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST / LOUISE JONES EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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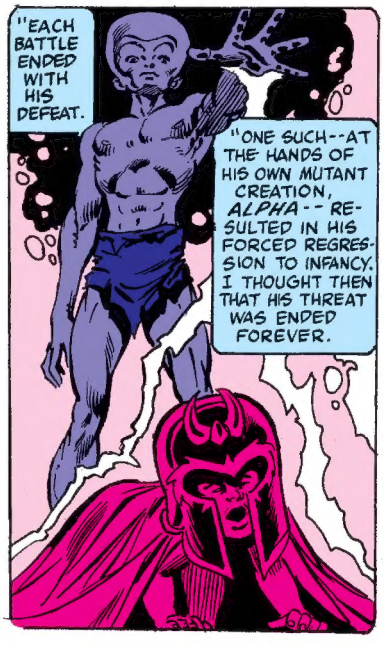
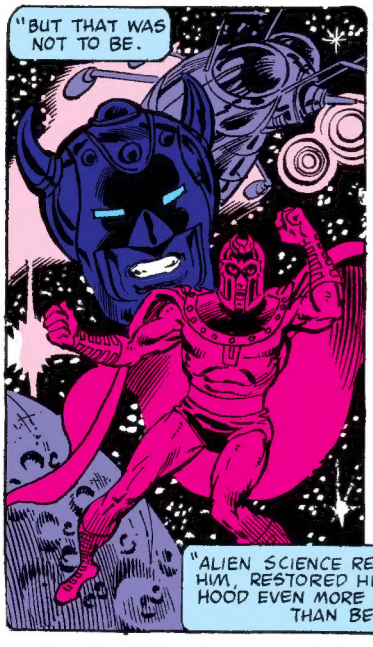
MAGNETO!
ORIGIN, UNKNOWN. ALTHOUGH HIS FEATURES ARE CAUCASIAN, PROBABLY NORDIC--ANTECEDENTS, UNKNOWN. MASTER OF MAGNETISM, ABLE TO MANIPULATE AWESOME ENERGIES WITH CHILDISH EASE. UNLIKE ME, HE BELIEVES THAT HOMO SAPIENS AND HOMO SUPERIOR CAN NEVER LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE.
ALREADY, MUTANTS ARE FEARED AND HATED SIMPLY BECAUSE WE EXIST. IF WE DO NOT CONQUER AND SUBJUGATE HUMANITY, MAGNETO PROPOUNDS, WE WILL BE DESTROYED, AND WHEN THAT VICTORY IS WON...
...MAGNETO MEANS TO RULE THE WORLD THAT IS LEFT.

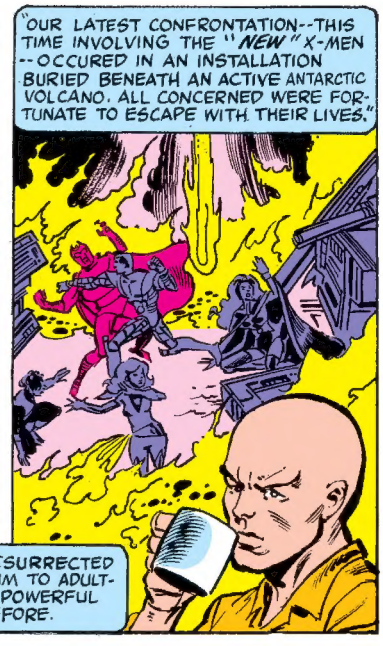
HE WAS THE FIRST "EVIL" MUTANT THE X-MEN FOUGHT, AND TO THIS DAY, REMAINS OUR DEADLIEST ENEMY.
I HAD JUST FORMED THE ORIGINAL TEAM--

"--CYCLOPS, BEAST, ANGEL, ICEMAN AND MARVEL GIRL--WHEN HE ATTACKED THE CAPE CITADEL MISSILE BASE. ACTING WITH EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE AND SKILL...
"MY PUPILS DROVE HIM AWAY.

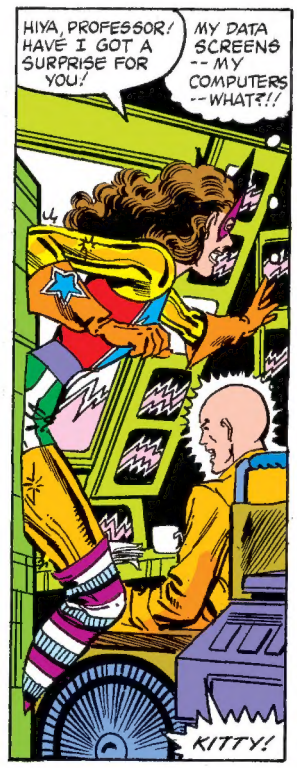
"WHEN NEXT WE FOUGHT, MAGNETO HAD GATHERED HIS OWN TEAM--A BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS, CONSISTING OF MASTERMIND, THE TOAD, QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH.

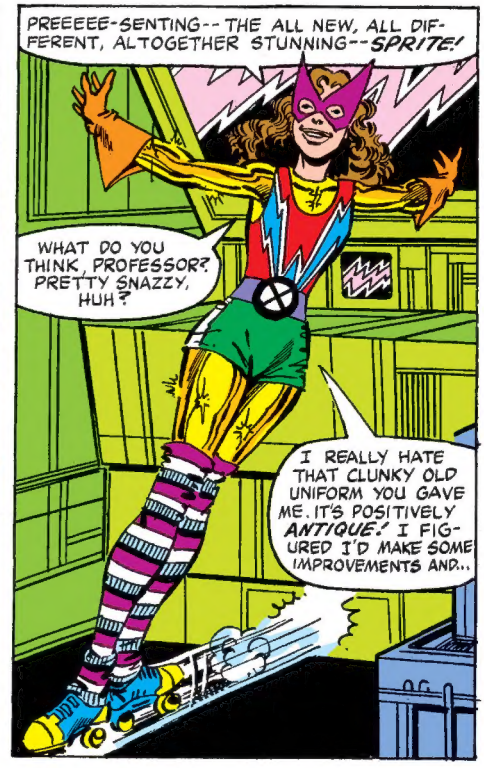

"EACH BATTLE ENDED WITH HIS DEFEAT.
"ONE SUCH--AT THE HANDS OF HIS OWN MUTANT CREATION, ALPHA--RESULTED IN HIS FORCED REGRESSION TO INFANCY. I THOUGHT THEN THAT HIS THREAT WAS ENDED FOREVER.

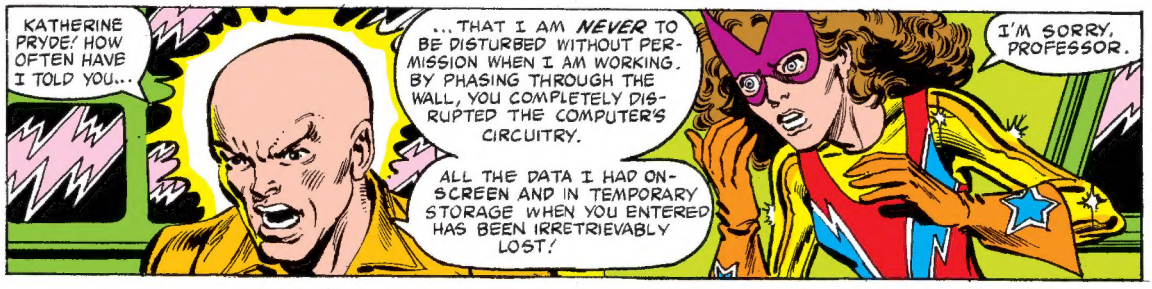

"BUT THAT WAS NOT TO BE.
"ALIEN SCIENCE RESURRECTED HIM, RESTORED HIM TO ADULTHOOD EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE.

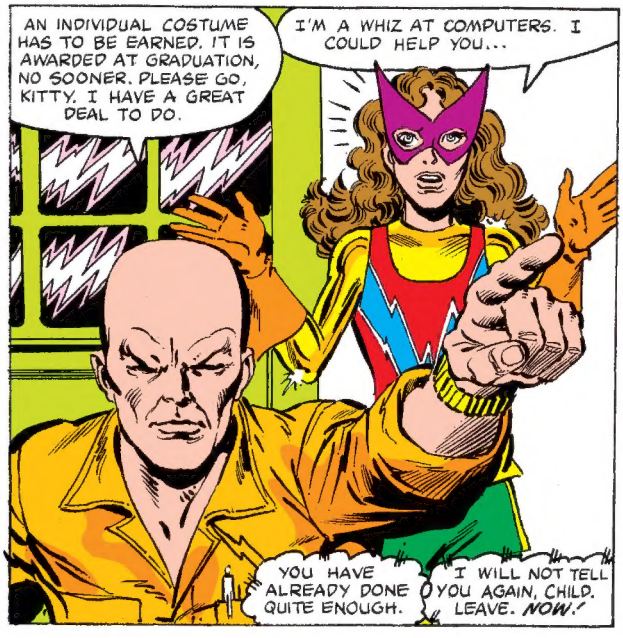

"OUR LATEST CONFRONTATION--THIS TIME INVOLVING THE "NEW" X-MEN--OCCURED IN AN INSTALLATION BURIED BENEATH AN ACTIVE ANTARCTIC VOLCANO. ALL CONCERNED WERE FORTUNATE TO ESCAPE WITH THEIR LIVES."

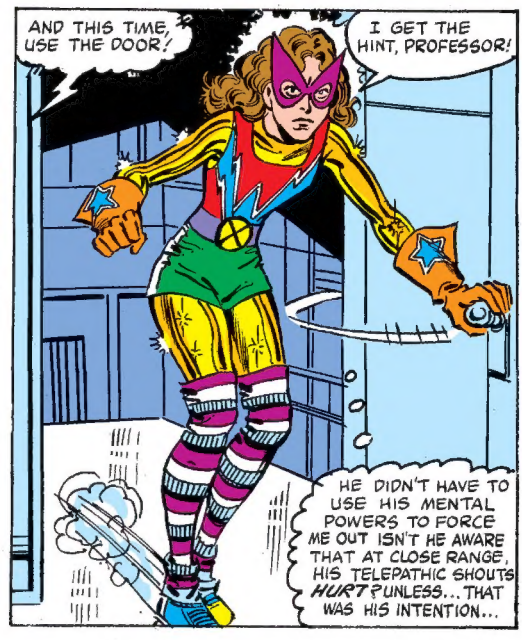
SINCE THEN, NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD FROM MAGNETO. WHY THEN AM I SO CERTAIN THAT HE IS PLANNING SOME DEVILTRY? I HAVE NO PROOF, ONLY MY INSTINCTS...
YET I'M SURE I'M RIGHT. I HAVE COME TO KNOW THE MAN -- HOW HE FEELS AND THINKS -- AND TO REALIZE THAT IN A GREAT MANY WAYS, IN TOO MANY WAYS...
...MAGNETO AND I ARE UNCOMFORTABLY ALIKE.

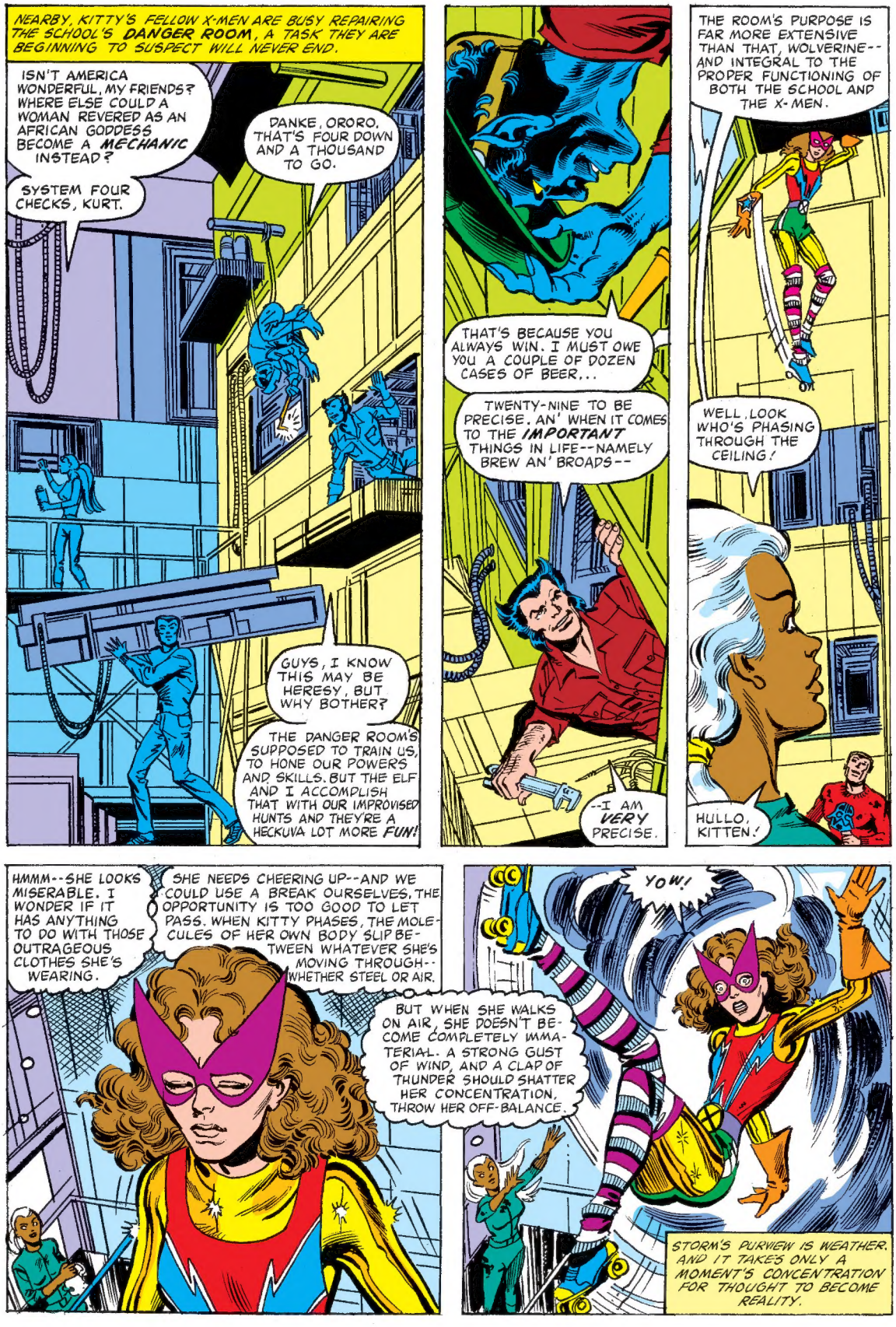

HIYA, PROFESSOR! HAVE I GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU!
MY DATA SCREENS -- MY COMPUTERS -- WHAT?!!
KITTY!

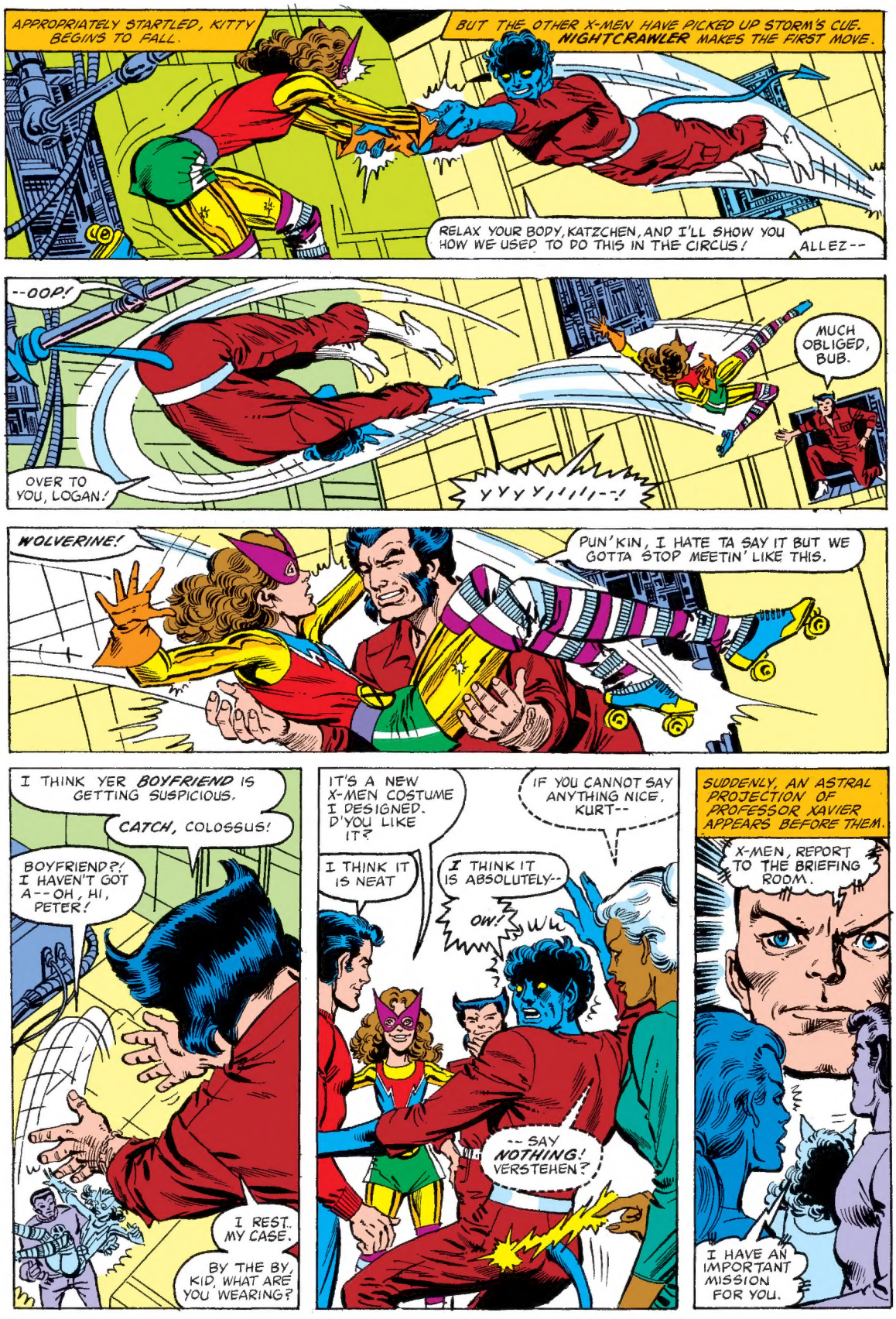

PREEEEE-SENTING -- THE ALL NEW, ALL DIFFERENT, ALTOGETHER STUNNING -- SPRITE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, PROFESSOR? PRETTY SNAZZY, HUH?
I REALLY HATE THAT CLUNKY OLD UNIFORM YOU GAVE ME. IT'S POSITIVELY ANTIQUE! I FIGURED I'D MAKE SOME IMPROVEMENTS AND...


KATHERINE PRYDE! HOW OFTEN HAVE I TOLD YOU...
...THAT I AM NEVER TO BE DISTURBED WITHOUT PERMISSION WHEN I AM WORKING. BY PHASING THROUGH THE WALL, YOU COMPLETELY DISRUPTED THE COMPUTER'S CIRCUITRY.
ALL THE DATA I HAD ON-SCREEN AND IN TEMPORARY STORAGE WHEN YOU ENTERED HAS BEEN IRRETRIEVABLY LOST!
I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR.

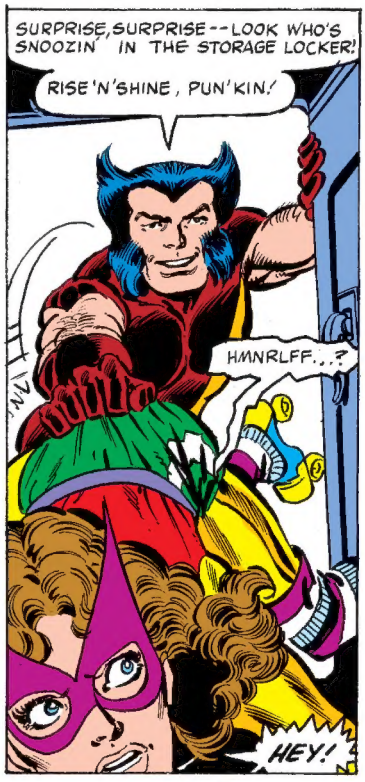

AN INDIVIDUAL COSTUME HAS TO BE EARNED. IT IS AWARDED AT GRADUATION, NO SOONER. PLEASE GO, KITTY. I HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO DO.
I'M A WHIZ AT COMPUTERS. I COULD HELP YOU...
YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE QUITE ENOUGH.
I WILL NOT TELL YOU AGAIN, CHILD. LEAVE. NOW!

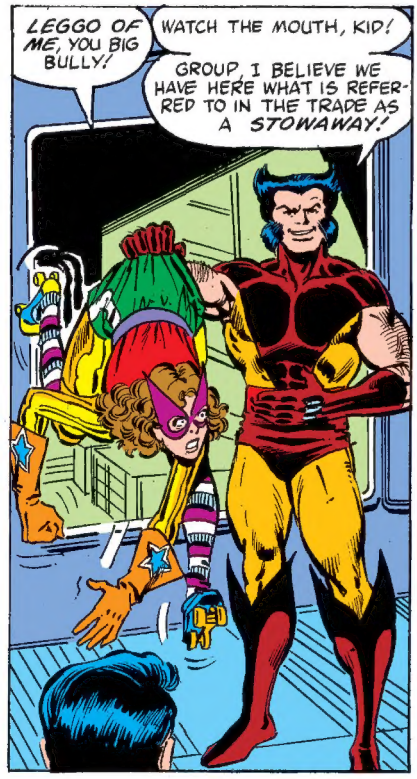

AND THIS TIME, USE THE DOOR!
I GET THE HINT, PROFESSOR!
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO USE HIS MENTAL POWERS TO FORCE ME OUT. ISN'T HE AWARE THAT AT CLOSE RANGE, HIS TELEPATHIC SHOUTS HURT? UNLESS... THAT WAS HIS INTENTION...


NEARBY, KITTY'S FELLOW X-MEN ARE BUSY REPAIRING THE SCHOOL'S DANGER ROOM, A TASK THEY ARE BEGINNING TO SUSPECT WILL NEVER END.
ISN'T AMERICA WONDERFUL, MY FRIENDS? WHERE ELSE COULD A WOMAN REVERED AS AN AFRICAN GODDESS BECOME A MECHANIC INSTEAD?
SYSTEM FOUR CHECKS, KURT.
DANKE, ORORO, THAT'S FOUR DOWN AND A THOUSAND TO GO.
GUYS, I KNOW THIS MAY BE HERESY, BUT WHY BOTHER?
THE DANGER ROOM'S SUPPOSED TO TRAIN US, TO HONE OUR POWERS AND SKILLS. BUT THE ELF AND I ACCOMPLISH THAT WITH OUR IMPROVISED HUNTS AND THEY'RE A HECKUVA LOT MORE FUN!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS WIN. I MUST OWE YOU A COUPLE OF DOZEN CASES OF BEER...
TWENTY-NINE TO BE PRECISE. AN' WHEN IT COMES TO THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE--NAMELY BREW AN' BROADS--
--I AM VERY PRECISE.
THE ROOM'S PURPOSE IS FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN THAT, WOLVERINE--AND INTEGRAL TO THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF BOTH THE SCHOOL AND THE X-MEN.
WELL, LOOK WHO'S PHASING THROUGH THE CEILING!
HULLO, KITTEN!
HMMM--SHE LOOKS MISERABLE. I WONDER IF IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THOSE OUTRAGEOUS CLOTHES SHE'S WEARING.
SHE NEEDS CHEERING UP--AND WE COULD USE A BREAK OURSELVES. THE OPPORTUNITY IS TOO GOOD TO LET PASS. WHEN KITTY PHASES, THE MOLECULES OF HER OWN BODY SLIP BETWEEN WHATEVER SHE'S MOVING THROUGH--WHETHER STEEL OR AIR.
BUT WHEN SHE WALKS ON AIR, SHE DOESN'T BECOME COMPLETELY IMMATERIAL. A STRONG GUST OF WIND, AND A CLAP OF THUNDER SHOULD SHATTER HER CONCENTRATION, THROW HER OFF-BALANCE.
YOW!
STORM'S PURVIEW IS WEATHER. AND IT TAKES ONLY A MOMENT'S CONCENTRATION FOR THOUGHT TO BECOME REALITY.


APPROPRIATELY STARTLED, KITTY BEGINS TO FALL.
BUT THE OTHER X-MEN HAVE PICKED UP STORM'S CUE. NIGHTCRAWLER MAKES THE FIRST MOVE.
RELAX YOUR BODY, KATZCHEN, AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW WE USED TO DO THIS IN THE CIRCUS!
ALLEZ--
--OOP!
MUCH OBLIGED, BUB.
OVER TO YOU, LOGAN!
YYYYIIIII--!
WOLVERINE!
PUN'KIN, I HATE TA SAY IT BUT WE GOTTA STOP MEETIN' LIKE THIS.
I THINK YER BOYFRIEND IS GETTING SUSPICIOUS.
CATCH, COLOSSUS!
BOYFRIEND?! I HAVEN'T GOT A--OH, HI, PETER!
I REST. MY CASE.
BY THE BY, KID, WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
IT'S A NEW X-MEN COSTUME I DESIGNED. D'YOU LIKE IT?
IF YOU CANNOT SAY ANYTHING NICE, KURT--
I THINK IT IS NEAT
I THINK IT IS ABSOLUTELY--
OW!
--SAY NOTHING! VERSTEHEN?
SUDDENLY, AN ASTRAL PROJECTION OF PROFESSOR XAVIER APPEARS BEFORE THEM.
X-MEN, REPORT TO THE BRIEFING ROOM.
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MISSION FOR YOU.

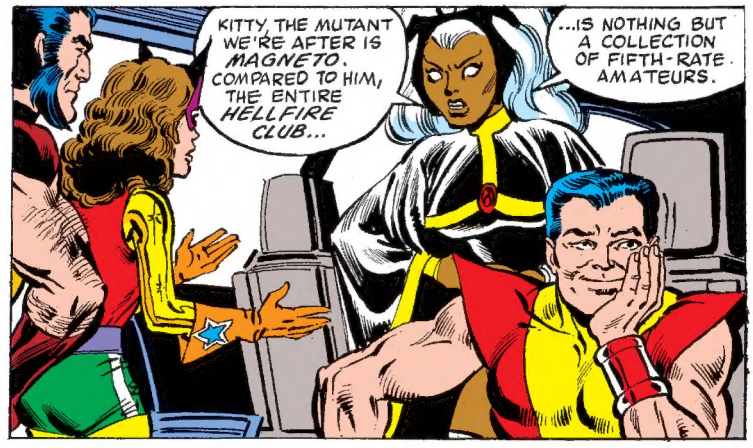
THEIR DEPARTURE IS DELAYED UNTIL EVENING WHEN CHANCES OF DETECTION ARE MINIMAL, BUT BY MIDNIGHT...
...THEY ARE STREAKING SOUTH OVER THE ATLANTIC SOARING AT HYPERSONIC SPEED ALONG THE EDGE OF SPACE ITSELF. ABOARD THEIR SOLE REMAINING CRAFT--A SPECIALLY MODIFIED SR-71 BLACKBIRD.
THEIR DESTINATION IS THE BOTTOM OF THE EARTH.
THIS IS A RECONAISSANCE MISSION, NOTHING MORE. BUT SUPPOSE WE FIND SOMETHING?
SUPPOSE WE FIND MAGNETO?
WHAT CAN THE FOUR OF US DO?
I WISH ANGEL WERE HERE. WE COULD USE HIS EXPERIENCE. WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE HE LEFT THE MANSION AFTER OUR ARGUMENT ABOUT WOLVERINE.* HE BELIEVES THAT LOGAN IS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE AN X-MAN. I BELIEVE WE MUST ACCEPT WOLVERINE IN SPITE OF THE DANGER.
*LAST ISH --LOUISE.
I HOPE THIS ESTRANGEMENT IS NOT PERMANENT, BUT I FEAR THE CHASM THAT HAS GROWN BETWEEN US IS TOO WIDE, TOO DEEP.
GIN, TOVARISCH!
AGAIN?!?
THIS IS FLAMIN' EMBARRASSIN'!
WOULD YOU CARE FOR ANOTHER GAME?
ARE YOU KIDDIN'? I KNOW WHEN I'M BEIN' HUSTLED. THE WAY YOU PLAY CARDS, PETEY, I'M GLAD I NEVER TAUGHT YOU POKER.
I AIN'T USED TA LOSIN'. I THINK I'LL DROWN MY SORROWS IN A BREW AND SANDWICH CHASER. ANYONE ELSE WANT MUNCHIES?
HOLY--!

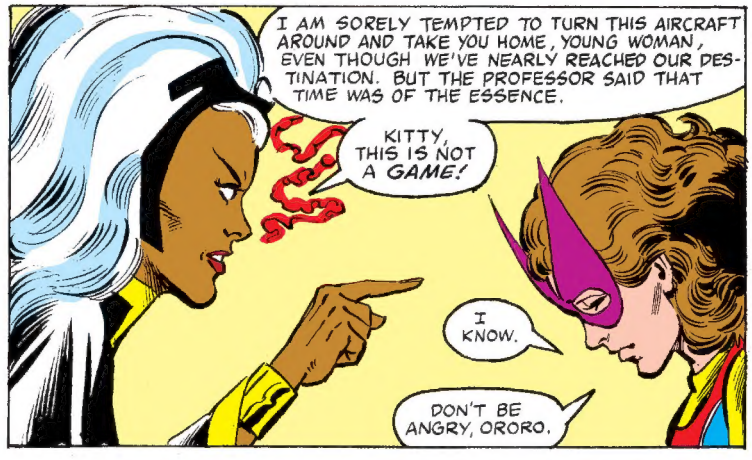

SURPRISE, SURPRISE--LOOK WHO'S SNOOZIN' IN THE STORAGE LOCKER!
RISE 'N' SHINE, PUN'KIN!
HMNRLFF...?
HEY!

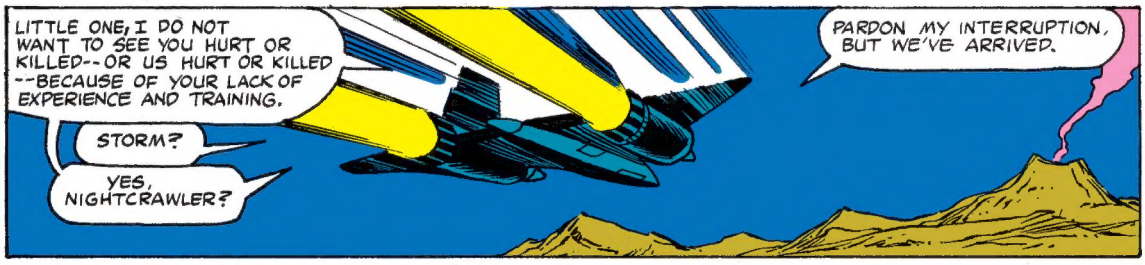

LEGGO OF ME, YOU BIG BULLY!
WATCH THE MOUTH, KID!
GROUP, I BELIEVE WE HAVE HERE WHAT IS REFERRED TO IN THE TRADE AS A STOWAWAY!

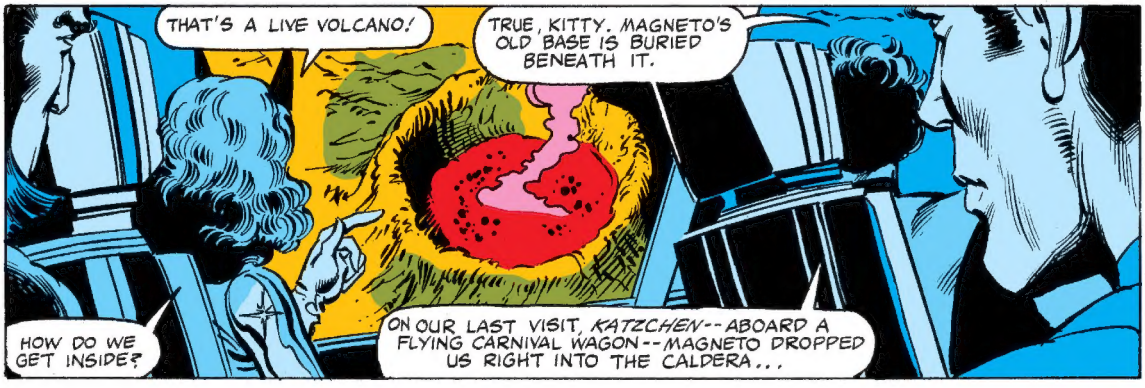
KITTY!
WHAT IN THE GODDESS' NAME ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SHE DECIDED TO COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE?
THAT ISN'T FUNNY, KURT.

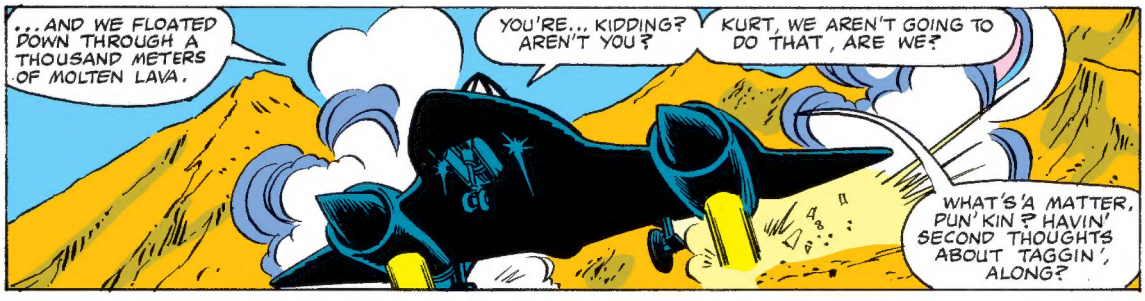
I'M AN X-MAN, AREN'T I? AND THIS IS AN X-MEN MISSION. WHY SHOULD I GET LEFT BEHIND!
BECAUSE YOU'RE AN X-MAN IN TRAINING.
WELL, NO ONE SAID I COULDN'T GO.
BESIDES, THIS IS A SCOUTING MISSION. WHAT COULD HAPPEN?

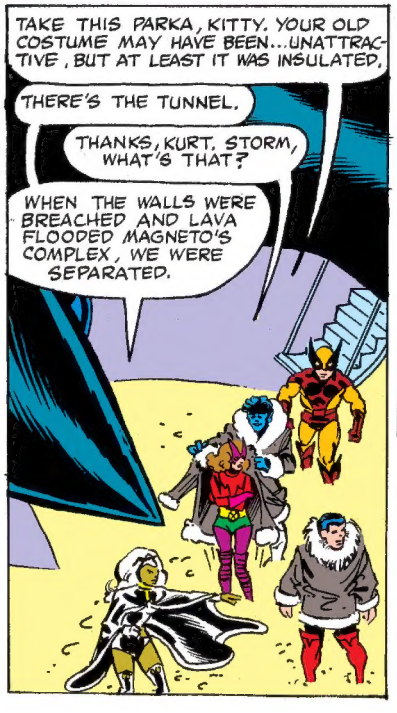

KITTY, THE MUTANT WE'RE AFTER IS MAGNETO. COMPARED TO HIM, THE ENTIRE HELLFIRE CLUB...
...IS NOTHING BUT A COLLECTION OF FIFTH-RATE AMATEURS.

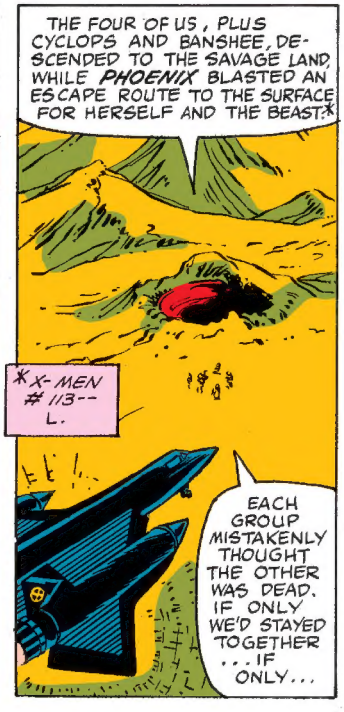

I AM SORELY TEMPTED TO TURN THIS AIRCRAFT AROUND AND TAKE YOU HOME, YOUNG WOMAN, EVEN THOUGH WE'VE NEARLY REACHED OUR DESTINATION. BUT THE PROFESSOR SAID THAT TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE.
KITTY, THIS IS NOT A GAME!
I KNOW.
DON'T BE ANGRY, ORORO.


LITTLE ONE, I DO NOT WANT TO SEE YOU HURT OR KILLED--OR US HURT OR KILLED --BECAUSE OF YOUR LACK OF EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING.
STORM?
YES, NIGHTCRAWLER?
PARDON MY INTERRUPTION, BUT WE'VE ARRIVED.


THAT'S A LIVE VOLCANO!
TRUE, KITTY. MAGNETO'S OLD BASE IS BURIED BENEATH IT.
HOW DO WE GET INSIDE?
ON OUR LAST VISIT, KATZCHEN--ABOARD A FLYING CARNIVAL WAGON--MAGNETO DROPPED US RIGHT INTO THE CALDERA...


...AND WE FLOATED DOWN THROUGH A THOUSAND METERS OF MOLTEN LAVA.
YOU'RE... KIDDING? AREN'T YOU?
KURT, WE AREN'T GOING TO DO THAT, ARE WE?
WHAT'S 'A MATTER, PUN'KIN? HAVIN' SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT TAGGIN', ALONG?


TAKE THIS PARKA, KITTY. YOUR OLD COSTUME MAY HAVE BEEN...UNATTRACTIVE, BUT AT LEAST IT WAS INSULATED.
THERE'S THE TUNNEL.
THANKS, KURT. STORM, WHAT'S THAT?
WHEN THE WALLS WERE BREACHED AND LAVA FLOODED MAGNETO'S COMPLEX, WE WERE SEPARATED.

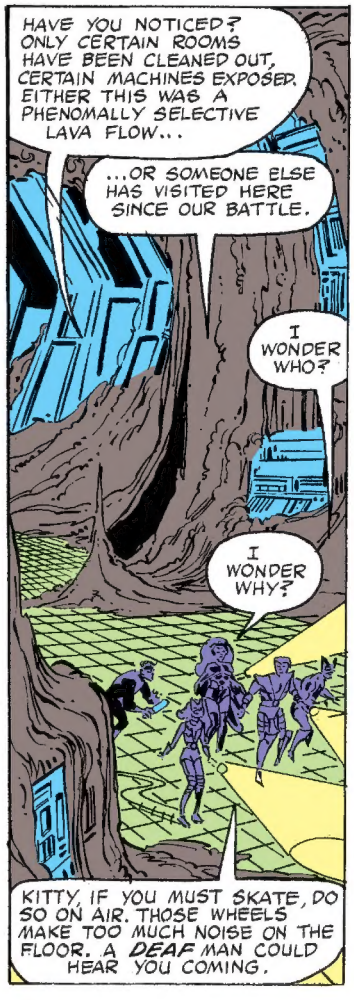

THE FOUR OF US, PLUS CYCLOPS AND BANSHEE, DESCENDED TO THE SAVAGE LAND, WHILE PHOENIX BLASTED AN ESCAPE ROUTE TO THE SURFACE FOR HERSELF AND THE BEAST.*
*X-MEN #113--L.
EACH GROUP MISTAKENLY THOUGHT THE OTHER WAS DEAD. IF ONLY WE'D STAYED TOGETHER ...IF ONLY...

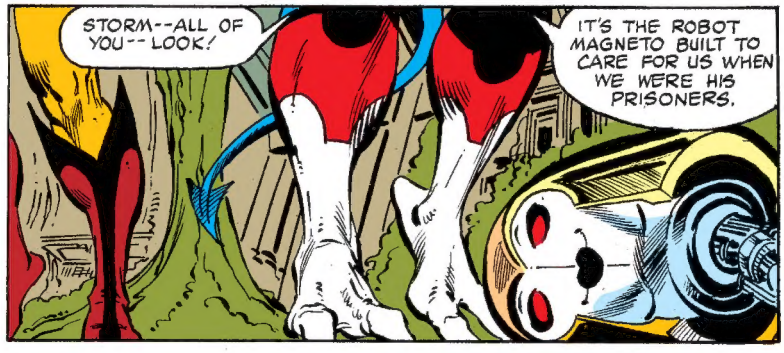
WOLVERINE, YOU HAVE THE KEENEST SENSES. YOU TAKE THE POINT.
GOTCHA, STORM, I'M--KID, YOU'RE STILL WEARIN' THOSE FLAMIN' ROLLER-SKATES!
NO PROBLEM, WOLVERINE! I'M WALKING ON AIR, NOT THE SNOW. THEY DON'T BOG ME DOWN.

HAVE WE REACHED THE BOTTOM?
LOOKS LIKE IT, STORM, WANT ME TO CUT THROUGH THE WALL?
LET COLOSSUS DO IT.
IF THERE IS LAVA ON THE OTHER SIDE ... HE'LL BE LEAST VULNERABLE TO IT.

AND SO, AFTER THE RUSSIAN X-MAN TRANSMUTES HIS BODY FROM FLESH AND BLOOD...
... TO SUPER-STRONG ORGANIC STEEL...

... OUR HEROES SOON FIND THEMSELVES IN A PLACE THEY REMEMBER ALL TOO WELL.
STRANGE. THE LAVA ENTERED FROM ABOVE. BY RIGHTS, THIS CHAMBER SHOULD HAVE BEEN FILLED TO THE BRIM.
AT LEAST THE VOLCANO KEEPS THINGS WELL HEATED.

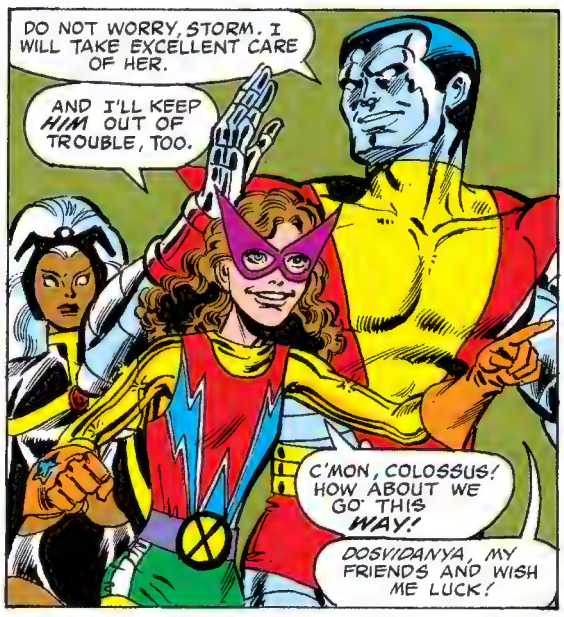

HAVE YOU NOTICED? ONLY CERTAIN ROOMS HAVE BEEN CLEANED OUT, CERTAIN MACHINES EXPOSED. EITHER THIS WAS A PHENOMALLY SELECTIVE LAVA FLOW...
...OR SOMEONE ELSE HAS VISITED HERE SINCE OUR BATTLE.
I WONDER WHO?
I WONDER WHY?
KITTY, IF YOU MUST SKATE, DO SO ON AIR. THOSE WHEELS MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE ON THE FLOOR. A DEAF MAN COULD HEAR YOU COMING.

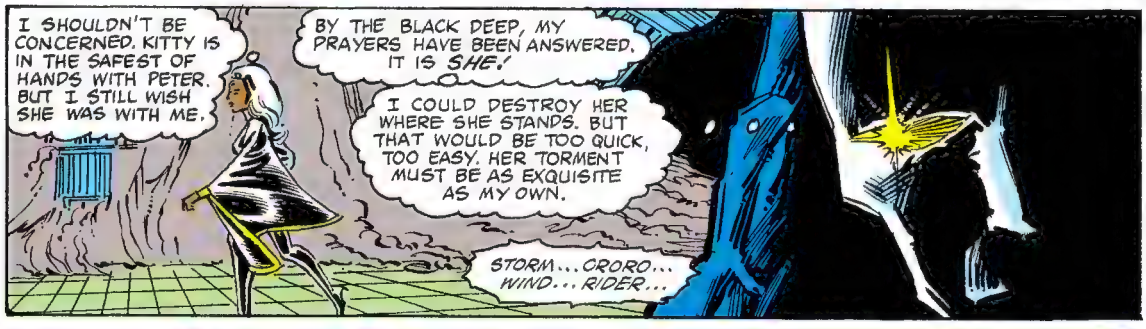

STORM--ALL OF YOU--LOOK!
IT'S THE ROBOT MAGNETO BUILT TO CARE FOR US WHEN WE WERE HIS PRISONERS.

ALAS, POOR NANNY. I KNEW HER, HORATIO. A ROBOT OF INFINITE JEST.
BULL!
A MENTAL COMMAND...
SZ-KT!
... EXTENDS WOLVERINE'S CLAWS.

THEY'RE FORGED OF UNBREAKABLE ADAMANTIUM, HONED TO RAZOR-KEENESS, AND WOLVERINE KNOWS HOW TO USE THEM TO DEADLY EFFECT.
MY ONLY REGRET, BUB, IS THAT I'M CUTTIN' THE ROBOT--
--AN' NOT THE SLIME WHO BUILT HER!

NONE OF US HAVE PLEASANT MEMORIES OF OUR CONFINEMENT HERE, WOLVERINE.
BUT NONE OF US CAN GO OFF HALF-COCKED, EITHER. ALL RIGHT--TO FACILITATE OUR EXPLORATION OF THE COMPLEX, WE'LL HAVE TO SEPARATE. SPRITE...
I'LL GO WITH, PETER--I MEAN COLOSSUS.


DO NOT WORRY, STORM. I WILL TAKE EXCELLENT CARE OF HER.
AND I'LL KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE, TOO.
C'MON, COLOSSUS! HOW ABOUT WE GO THIS WAY!
DOSVIDANYA, MY FRIENDS AND WISH ME LUCK!


I SHOULDN'T BE CONCERNED. KITTY IS IN THE SAFEST OF HANDS WITH PETER. BUT I STILL WISH SHE WAS WITH ME.
BY THE BLACK DEEP, MY PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED. IT IS SHE!
I COULD DESTROY HER WHERE SHE STANDS. BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO QUICK, TOO EASY. HER TORMENT MUST BE AS EXQUISITE AS MY OWN.
STORM... ORORO... WIND... RIDER...

WHAT'S THAT?! WHO CALLS MY NAME?!
HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOT HIM WHO YOU-- MURDERED!
GAROKK!

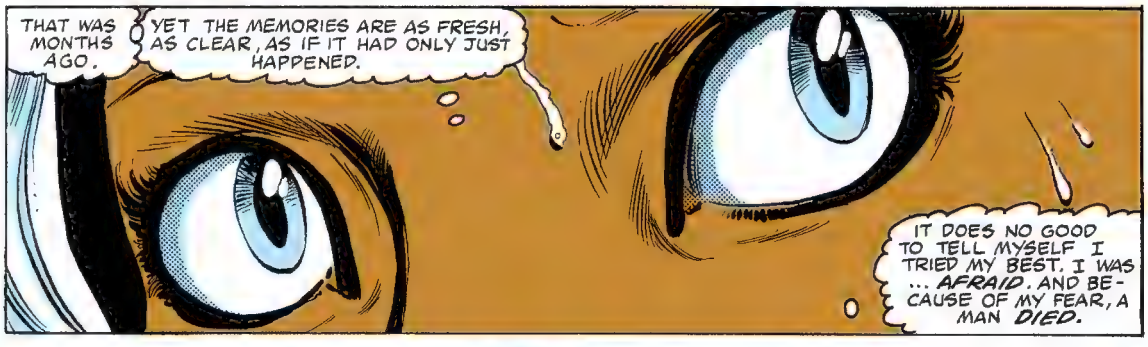
HE WAS AN ORDINARY MAN, TRANSFIGURED BY ANCIENT, ARCANE FORCES INTO A LIVING GOD. HE WAS ALSO QUITE MAD. HE SOUGHT TO CONQUER THE SAVAGE LAND (A VAST UNSPOILED PREHISTORIC WILDERNESS NESTLED WITHIN ANTARCTICA'S ETERNITY MOUNTAIN RANGE).
AT THE CLIMAX OF HIS BATTLE WITH THE X-MEN, HE WAS HURLED INTO A GREAT THERMAL PIT THAT STRETCHED DOWNWARD VIRTUALLY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH.

STORM WENT AFTER HIM.
HEAT PUSHING AGAINST ME, FORCING ME TO TACK. THAT TAKES US DEEPER INTO THE SHAFT. --NO! I MUSTN'T THINK ABOUT THAT!
A LIFE IS IN PERIL. THAT IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

ALMOST THERE--HEAT, FUMES AFFECTING ME! IT'S SO HARD TO BREATHE!
REACH, MAN --REACH!

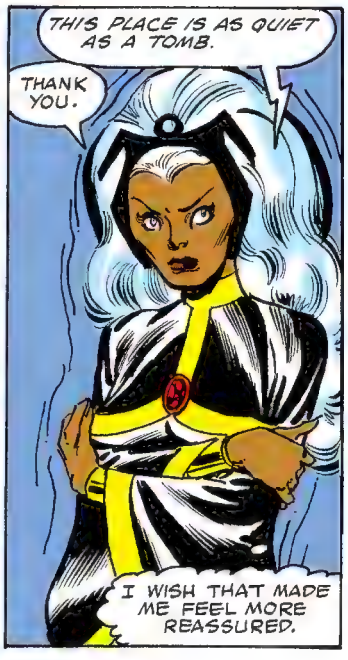
IMAGES COLLIDED IN HER MIND, GAROKK'S EYES MIRRORING THE ANCIENT TERROR WITHIN HER. WITHOUT MEANING TO, SHE HESTITATED.
...AND WAS LOST.
AARRRGH!

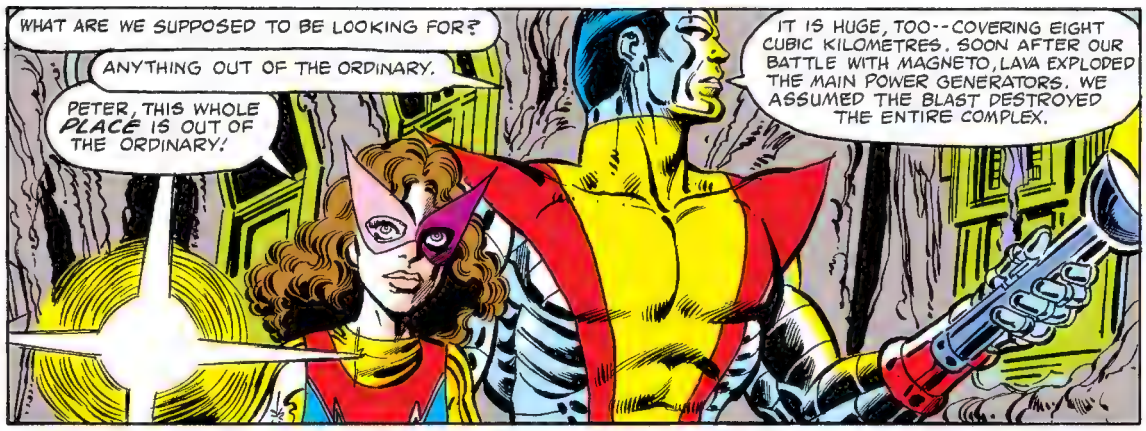
IN THAT INSTANT, STORM WAS NO MORE. THERE WAS ONLY ORORO, A CHILD...
...WHOSE PRIVATE-HELL WAS--AND IS--THE FEAR OF DYING ALONE, BURIED IN THE DARK.

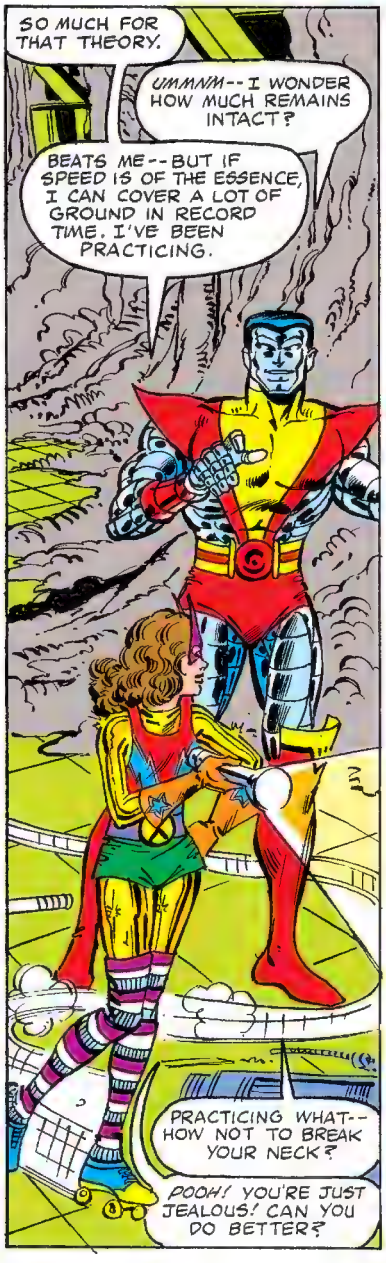

THAT WAS MONTHS AGO.
YET THE MEMORIES ARE AS FRESH, AS CLEAR, AS IF IT HAD ONLY JUST HAPPENED.
IT DOES NO GOOD TO TELL MYSELF I TRIED MY BEST. I WAS ... AFRAID. AND BECAUSE OF MY FEAR, A MAN DIED.

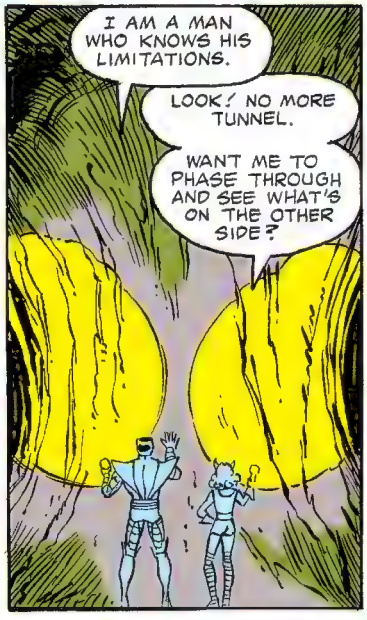
OR SO I THOUGHT.
THERE'S NO ONE NEARBY. COULD IT BE A... GHOST? WORSE, COULD I BE IMAGINING THINGS?
I'D BEST USE MY RADIO MICRO-TRANSCEIVER TO CHECK WITH THE OTHERS.

WOLVERINE. ARE WE ALONE DOWN HERE? HAVE YOUR ENHANCED SENSES SPOTTED ANYTHING...UNUSUAL?
NEGATIVE, STORM. HEARD NOTHING, SEEN NOTHING, SMELT NOTHING--'CEPT US, OF COURSE.


THIS PLACE IS AS QUIET AS A TOMB.
THANK YOU.
I WISH THAT MADE ME FEEL MORE REASSURED.


WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR?
ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
PETER, THIS WHOLE PLACE IS OUT OF THE ORDINARY!
IT IS HUGE, TOO--COVERING EIGHT CUBIC KILOMETRES. SOON AFTER OUR BATTLE WITH MAGNETO, LAVA EXPLODED THE MAIN POWER GENERATORS. WE ASSUMED THE BLAST DESTROYED THE ENTIRE COMPLEX.


SO MUCH FOR THAT THEORY.
UMMMM--I WONDER HOW MUCH REMAINS INTACT?
BEATS ME--BUT IF SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE, I CAN COVER A LOT OF GROUND IN RECORD TIME. I'VE BEEN PRACTICING.
PRACTICING WHAT--HOW NOT TO BREAK YOUR NECK?
POOH! YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS! CAN YOU DO BETTER?

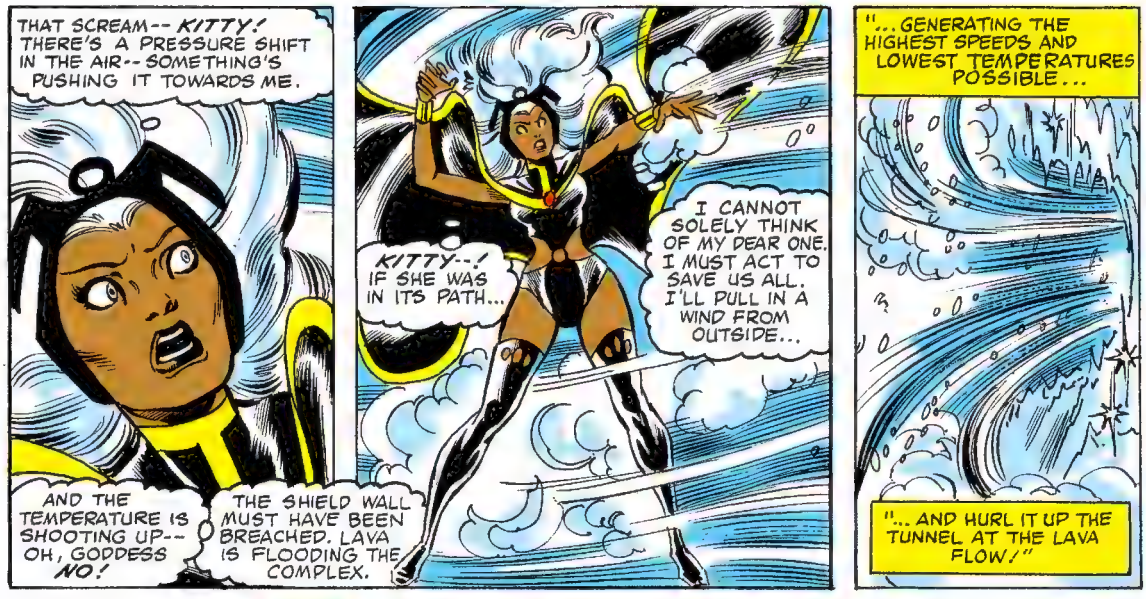

I AM A MAN WHO KNOWS HIS LIMITATIONS.
LOOK! NO MORE TUNNEL.
WANT ME TO PHASE THROUGH AND SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE?

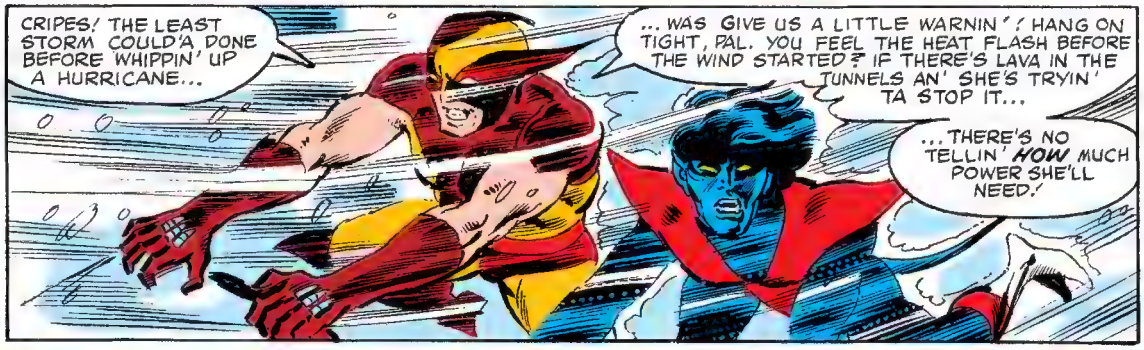
NO. FEEL THE WALL. IT IS HOT. I THINK THAT BEYOND IT IS MOLTEN LAVA.
RIIIGHT--THE VOLCANO.
I WILL CONTACT STORM...

...TELL HER WE'VE FOUND NOTH--
--UNNNGNH!
PETER!
SOMEONE HIT HIM --BUT WHO?!

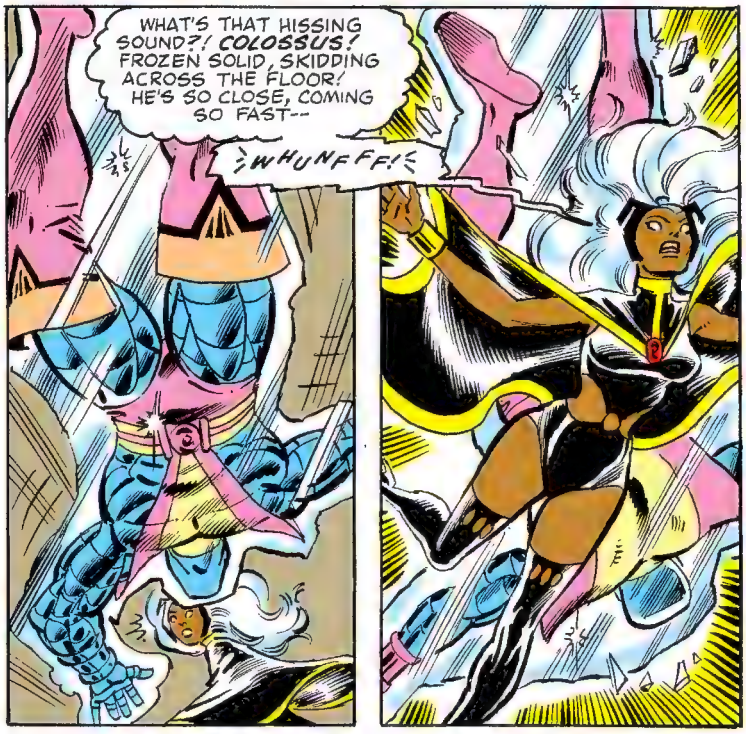
NO!

BEHOLD, CHILD THE RUIN OF A LIVING GOD!
BEHOLD-- GAROKK!!
I AM KEEPER OF THIS PLACE, CHARGED--NAY, CONDEMNED-- BY MAGNETO TO DEFEND IT AGAINST ALL INTRUDERS.
DO NOT RESIST ME, CHILD, OR ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE. NEITHER WILL SUCCEED. I OFFER A QUICK DEATH.
GEEZ!
THANKS A LOT!
I HOPE YOU WON'T BE TOO UPSET...
...IF I TURN YOU DOWN.
THE CHILD-- PASSING RIGHT THROUGH ME AHHRRR!
I HURT HIM. BUT HOW?! I'VE PHASED THROUGH PEOPLE BEFORE AND THEY NEVER FELT A THING! WHY WAS GAROKK DIFFERENT?!
PETER-- WAKE UP! C'MON, MOVE! PLEASE!
I CAN'T RAISE ANYONE ON MY RADIO --THERE'S TOO MUCH STATIC.
NEVER HAVE...I EXPERIENCED SUCH SENSATIONS. YOU WILL... PAY FOR THAT, CHILD, WHEN I SMASH THIS WALL...
...I WILL SURVIVE THE LAVA FLOW...
...AND COLOSSUS MIGHT SURVIVE...
...BUT WILL YOU?!?
ORORO!


THAT SCREAM-- KITTY! THERE'S A PRESSURE SHIFT IN THE AIR-- SOMETHING'S PUSHING IT TOWARDS ME.
AND THE TEMPERATURE IS SHOOTING UP-- OH, GODDESS NO!
THE SHIELD WALL MUST HAVE BEEN BREACHED. LAVA IS FLOODING THE COMPLEX.
KITTY--! IF SHE WAS IN ITS PATH...
I CANNOT SOLELY THINK OF MY DEAR ONE. I MUST ACT TO SAVE US ALL. I'LL PULL IN A WIND FROM OUTSIDE...
"... GENERATING THE HIGHEST SPEEDS AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES POSSIBLE...
"... AND HURL IT UP THE TUNNEL AT THE LAVA FLOW!"

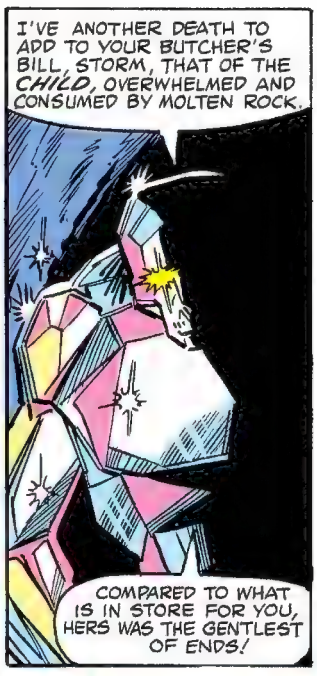

CRIPES! THE LEAST STORM COULD'A DONE BEFORE WHIPPIN' UP A HURRICANE...
... WAS GIVE US A LITTLE WARNIN'! HANG ON TIGHT, PAL. YOU FEEL THE HEAT FLASH BEFORE THE WIND STARTED? IF THERE'S LAVA IN THE TUNNELS AN' SHE'S TRYIN' TA STOP IT...
... THERE'S NO TELLIN' HOW MUCH POWER SHE'LL NEED!

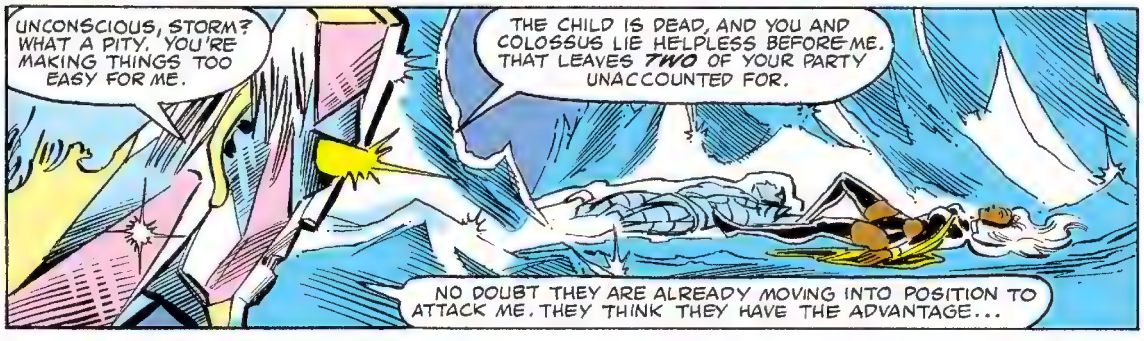
SOONER THAN EITHER X-MAN EXPECTS, HOWEVER, THE TEMPEST ENDS-- AS ABRUPTLY AS IT BEGAN.
EVERYTHING IS COATED IN ICE. IT IS SO... BEAUTIFUL. AND THE LAVA FLOW HAS COOLED AND SOLIDIFIED. WE ARE SAFE.
BUT WHAT OF PETER AND KITTY?
WOLVERINE! NIGHTCRAWLER! I NEED YOUR HELP!

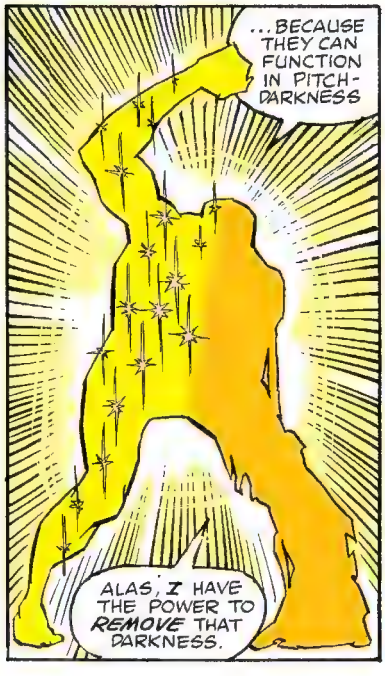

WHAT'S THAT HISSING SOUND?! COLOSSUS! FROZEN SOLID, SKIDDING ACROSS THE FLOOR! HE'S SO CLOSE, COMING SO FAST--
WHUNFFF!

IS SHE HURT?
STUNNED.
YOU ANY GOOD AT CLIMBIN' ICE?
I'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL I TRY. WHY?

SOMEONE THREW PETEY OUTTA THAT TUNNEL. AN' THAT LAVA FLOW WAS PROBABLY NO ACCIDENT EITHER. I FIGURE WE'RE FACIN' MAGNETO HIMSELF, OR ONE OF HIS FLUNKIES.
FIND COVER, ELF. WE'VE GOT COMPANY.


I'VE ANOTHER DEATH TO ADD TO YOUR BUTCHER'S BILL, STORM, THAT OF THE CHILD, OVERWHELMED AND CONSUMED BY MOLTEN ROCK.
COMPARED TO WHAT IS IN STORE FOR YOU, HERS WAS THE GENTLEST OF ENDS!

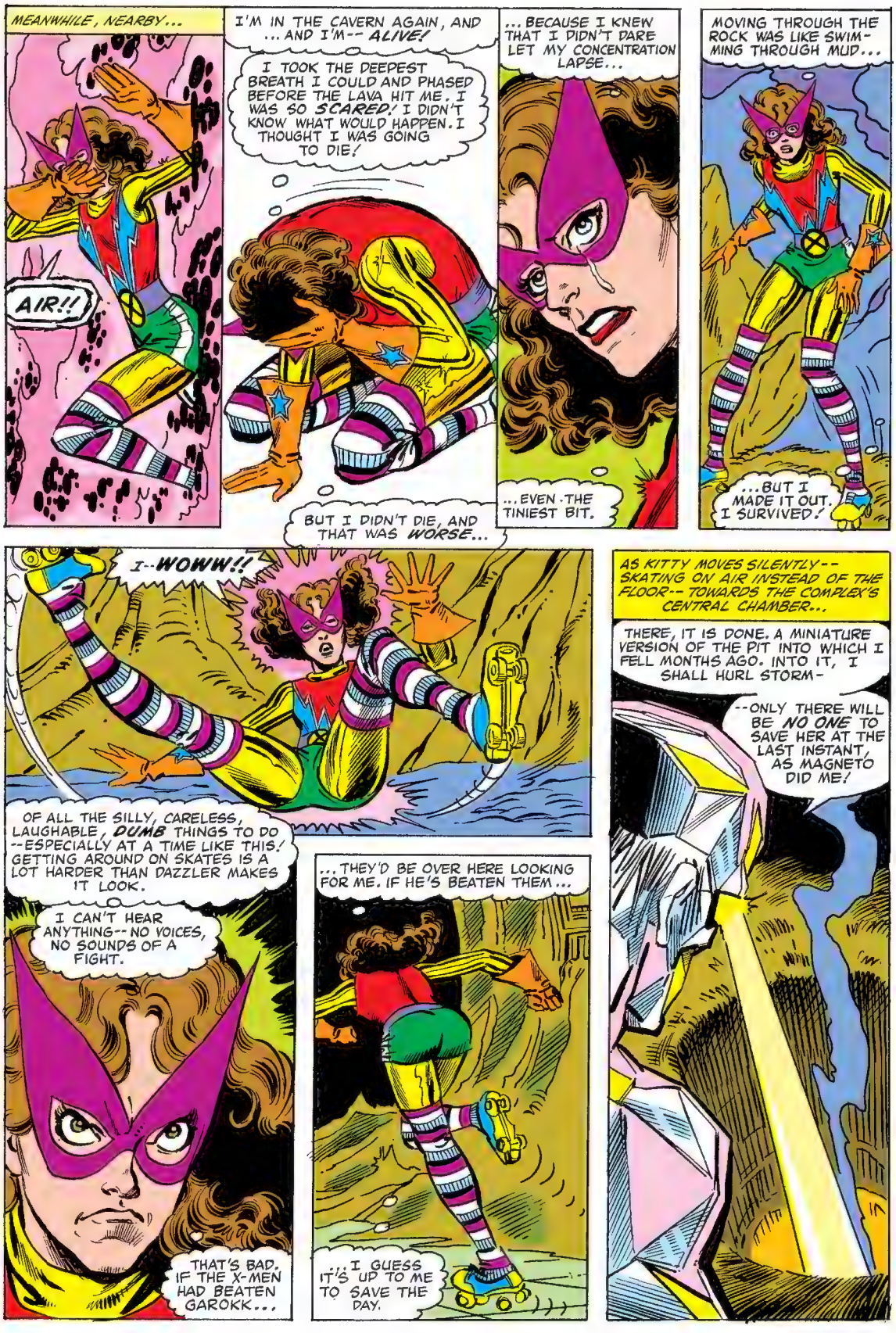

UNCONSCIOUS, STORM? WHAT A PITY. YOU'RE MAKING THINGS TOO EASY FOR ME.
THE CHILD IS DEAD, AND YOU AND COLOSSUS LIE HELPLESS BEFORE ME. THAT LEAVES TWO OF YOUR PARTY UNACCOUNTED FOR.
NO DOUBT THEY ARE ALREADY MOVING INTO POSITION TO ATTACK ME. THEY THINK THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE...

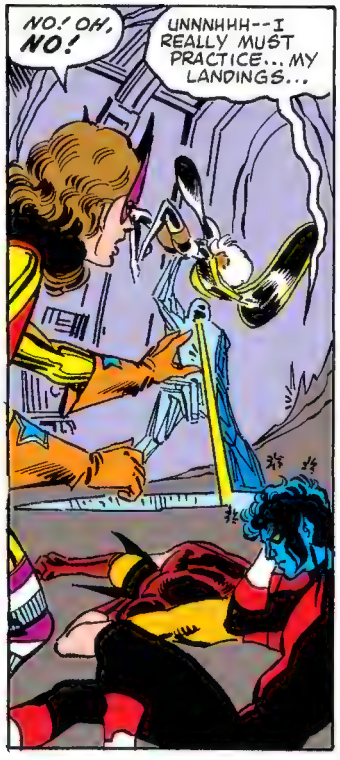

...BECAUSE THEY CAN FUNCTION IN PITCH-DARKNESS
ALAS, I HAVE THE POWER TO REMOVE THAT DARKNESS.

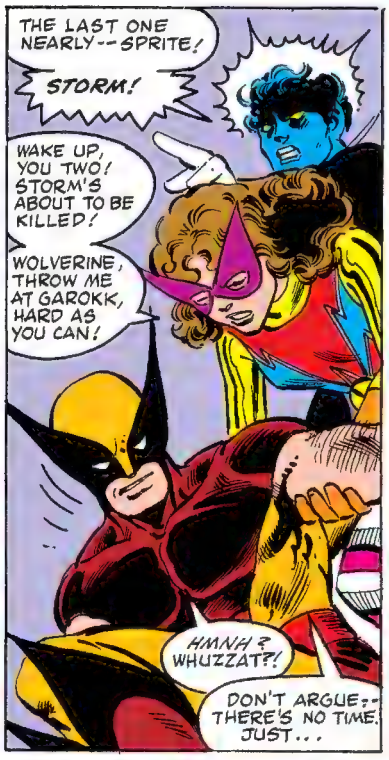
HALF OUR FOE'S BODY IS FORMED OF MISSHAPEN ROCK, THE OTHER OF CRYSTAL-- AND THAT HALF IS GLOWING LIKE A STAR!

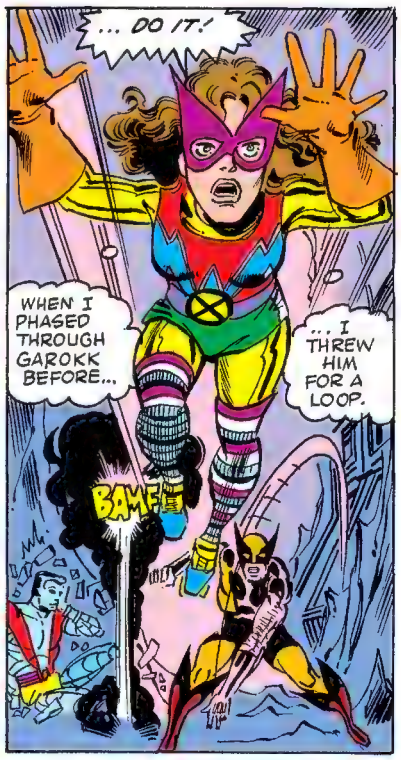
THE ICE FORMATIONS CREATED BY STORM'S BLIZZARD ARE ACTING LIKE MIRRORS, LIGHTING EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY AS BRIGHT AS DAY!
IT'S BLINDING ME--
--LEAVING ME NOWHERE TO HIDE!

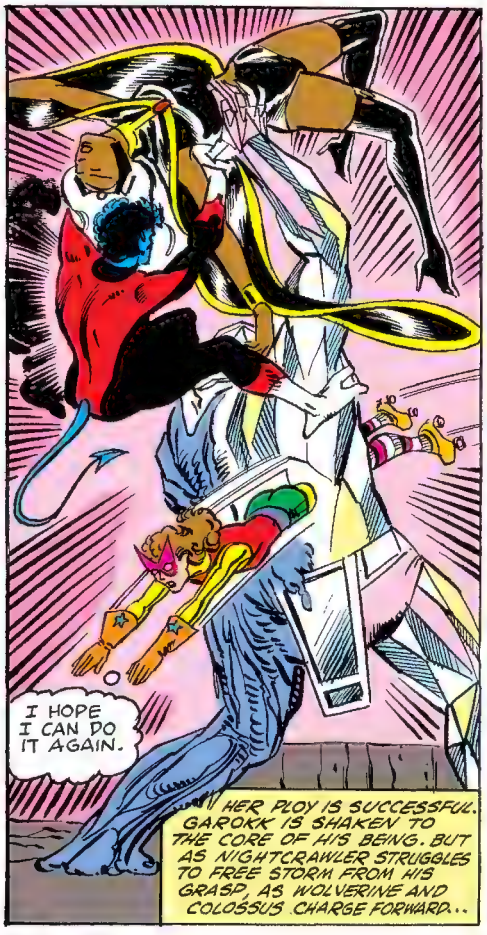
I SEE YOU, NIGHTCRAWLER!
AND WHAT GAROKK SEES--HE SLAYS!
GAROKK? AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD YOURSELF?
YIKES! THE DISINTEGRATOR BEAMS HE FIRES FROM HIS EYES HAVE LOST NONE OF THEIR POTENCY.
AS THE ENERGY BOLT SLICES TOWARDS HIM...
BAMF
...NIGHT-CRAWLER TELEPORTS FROM THE CEILING...
...TO THE ONE PLACE WHERE GAROKK CAN'T BLAST HIM...
I WAS RESCUED--PULLED AT THE LAST INSTANT FROM THE OBLIVION I YEARNED FOR--
--BY MAGNETO!
YOUR ACCURSED CLAWS CANNOT HARM ME, CRETIN.
HE AIN'T KIDDIN'! WHERE I TAGGED HIM--
BUB, IF ETERNAL PEACE IS WHAT YOU CRAVE--
--I'LL BE MORE'N HAPPY TO OBLIGE YOU!
--HIS CRYSTAL SKIN REGENERATED ITSELF ALMOST IMMEDIATELY!

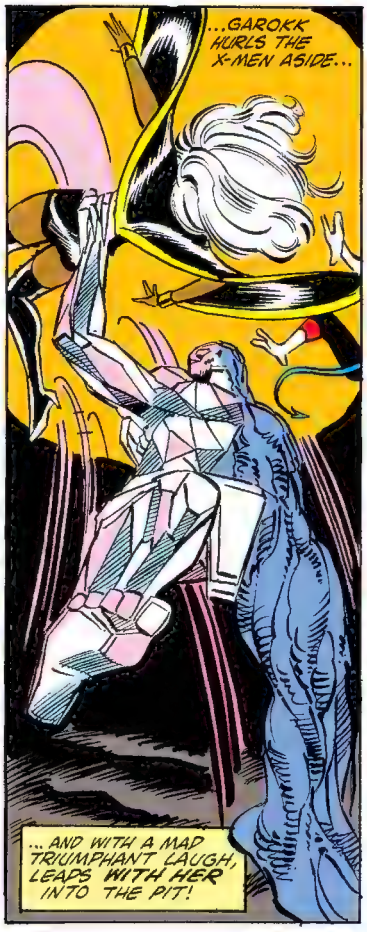

MEANWHILE, NEARBY...
AIR!!
I'M IN THE CAVERN AGAIN, AND ... AND I'M-- ALIVE!
I TOOK THE DEEPEST BREATH I COULD AND PHASED BEFORE THE LAVA HIT ME. I WAS SO SCARED! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN. I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!
BUT I DIDN'T DIE, AND THAT WAS WORSE...
... BECAUSE I KNEW THAT I DIDN'T DARE LET MY CONCENTRATION LAPSE...
... EVEN THE TINIEST BIT.
MOVING THROUGH THE ROCK WAS LIKE SWIMMING THROUGH MUD...
... BUT I MADE IT OUT. I SURVIVED!
I--WOWW!!
OF ALL THE SILLY, CARELESS, LAUGHABLE, DUMB THINGS TO DO --ESPECIALLY AT A TIME LIKE THIS! GETTING AROUND ON SKATES IS A LOT HARDER THAN DAZZLER MAKES IT LOOK.
I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING-- NO VOICES, NO SOUNDS OF A FIGHT.
THAT'S BAD. IF THE X-MEN HAD BEATEN GAROKK...
... THEY'D BE OVER HERE LOOKING FOR ME. IF HE'S BEATEN THEM...
... I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO SAVE THE DAY.
AS KITTY MOVES SILENTLY-- SKATING ON AIR INSTEAD OF THE FLOOR-- TOWARDS THE COMPLEX'S CENTRAL CHAMBER...
THERE, IT IS DONE. A MINIATURE VERSION OF THE PIT INTO WHICH I FELL MONTHS AGO. INTO IT, I SHALL HURL STORM-
--ONLY THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO SAVE HER AT THE LAST INSTANT, AS MAGNETO DID ME!


NO! OH, NO!
UNNNHHH--I REALLY MUST PRACTICE... MY LANDINGS...


THE LAST ONE NEARLY--SPRITE!
STORM!
WAKE UP, YOU TWO! STORM'S ABOUT TO BE KILLED!
WOLVERINE, THROW ME AT GAROKK, HARD AS YOU CAN!
HMNH? WHUZZAT?!
DON'T ARGUE;- THERE'S NO TIME. JUST...


... DO IT!
WHEN I PHASED THROUGH GAROKK BEFORE...
... I THREW HIM FOR A LOOP.
BAM!


I HOPE I CAN DO IT AGAIN.
HER PLOY IS SUCCESSFUL. GAROKK IS SHAKEN TO THE CORE OF HIS BEING. BUT AS NIGHTCRAWLER STRUGGLES TO FREE STORM FROM HIS GRASP, AS WOLVERINE AND COLOSSUS CHARGE FORWARD...


...GAROKK HURLS THE X-MEN ASIDE...
... AND WITH A MAD TRIUMPHANT LAUGH, LEAPS WITH HER INTO THE PIT!

STORM!
NEIN, ACH NEIN-- IT CANNOT BE!
SHADDUP! ALL OF YOU! I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING!

ARE YOU, CERTAIN, WOLVERINE? I CANNOT SEE ANYTHING.

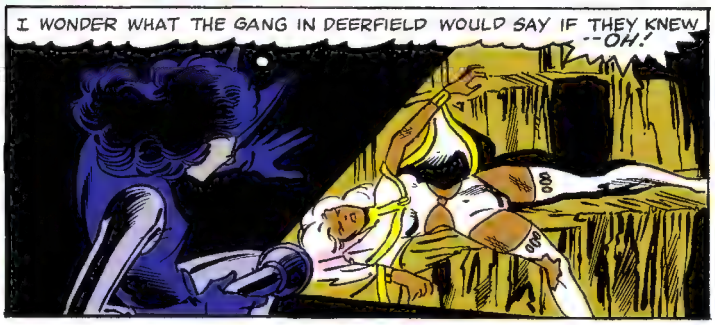
NOT SURPRISIN' STORM'S COSTUME'S NON-REFLECTIVE BUT I HEARD A WOMAN'S VOICE--A GROAN.

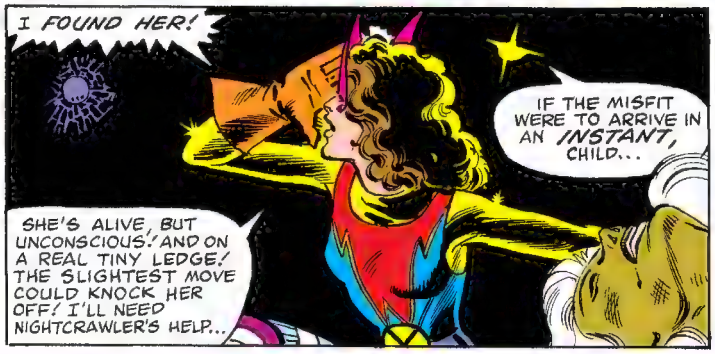
STORM?! WHY DOES SHE NOT ANSWER?

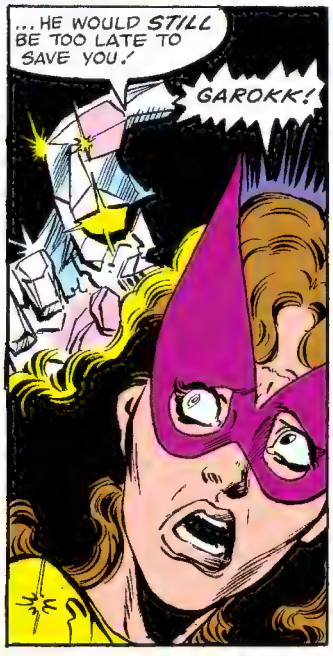
ORORO!

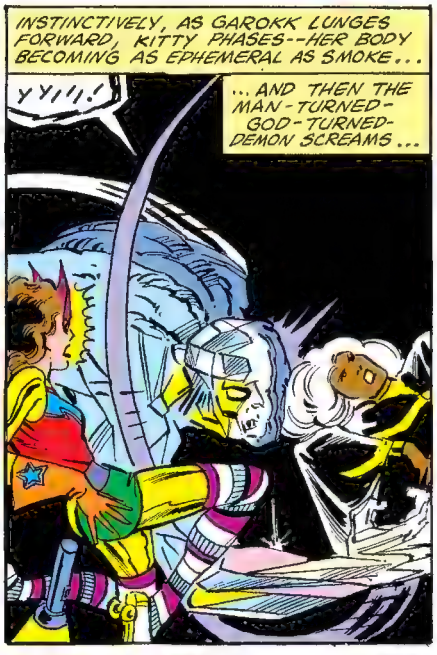
SHE PROBABLY *CAN'T* ANSWER, PETER. ONE OF US HAS TO GO DOWN AFTER HER. I THINK I'M THE BEST CHOICE. NIGHTCRAWLER WILL BE AS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE IN THOSE SHADOWS AS STORM, WHILE ALL THE SHINY STUFF ON MY COSTUME OUGHT TO REFLECT OUR FLASHLIGHT'S BEAMS FOR QUITE A WAYS.

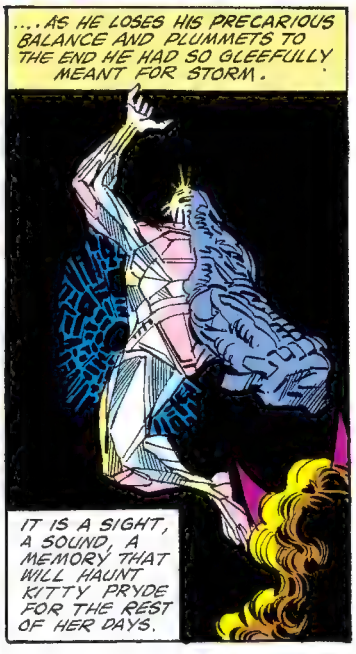
WHAT DO YOU THINK, WOLVERINE? GUYS?

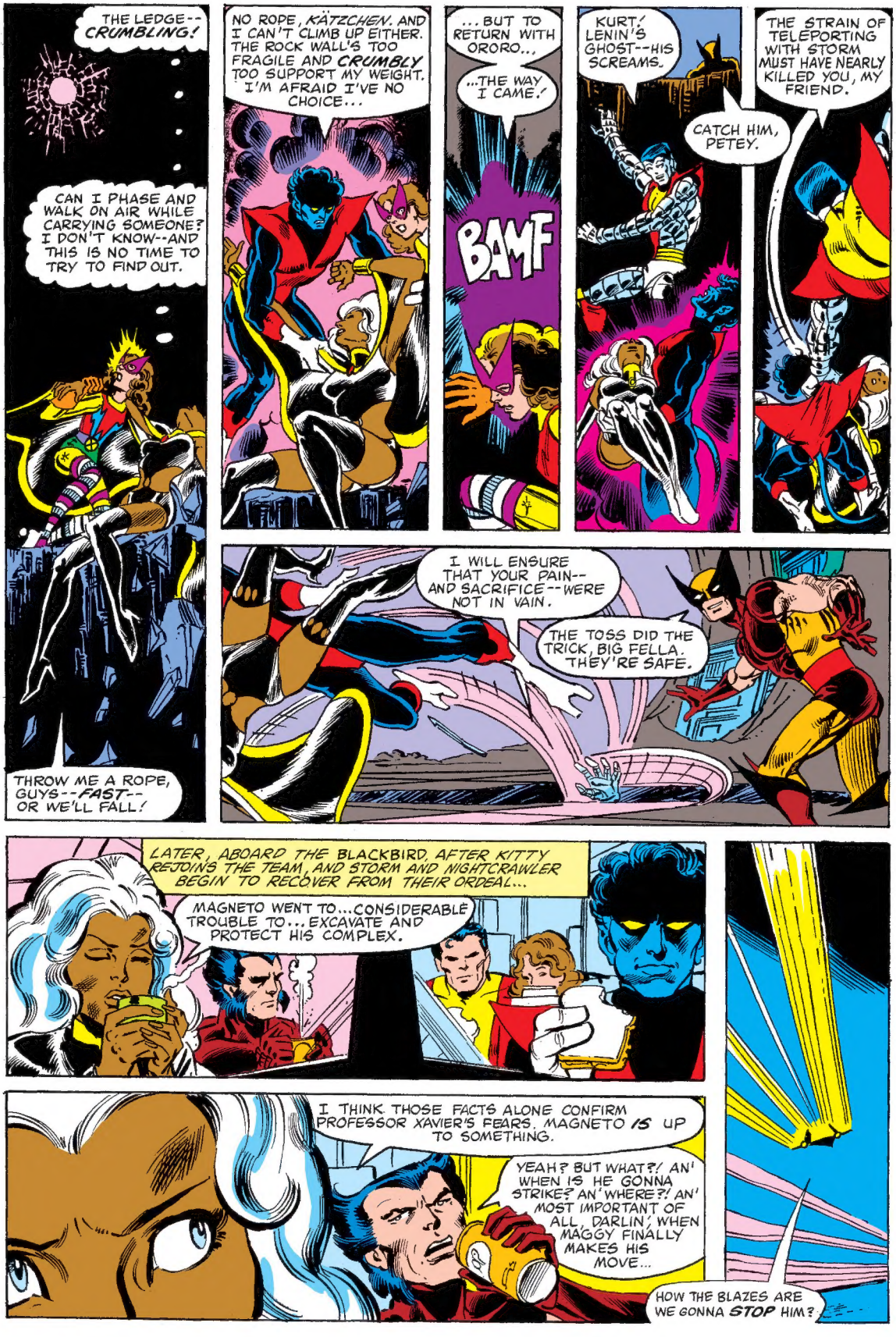











THE LEDGE--CRUMBLING!
CAN I PHASE AND WALK ON AIR WHILE CARRYING SOMEONE? I DON'T KNOW--AND THIS IS NO TIME TO TRY TO FIND OUT.
THROW ME A ROPE, GUYS--FAST--OR WE'LL FALL!
NO ROPE, KÄTZCHEN. AND I CAN'T CLIMB UP EITHER. THE ROCK WALL'S TOO FRAGILE AND CRUMBLY TOO SUPPORT MY WEIGHT. I'M AFRAID I'VE NO CHOICE...
...BUT TO RETURN WITH ORORO...
...THE WAY I CAME!
BAMF
KURT! LENIN'S GHOST--HIS SCREAMS.
CATCH HIM, PETEY.
THE STRAIN OF TELEPORTING WITH STORM MUST HAVE NEARLY KILLED YOU, MY FRIEND.
I WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR PAIN--AND SACRIFICE--WERE NOT IN VAIN.
THE TOSS DID THE TRICK, BIG FELLA. THEY'RE SAFE.
LATER, ABOARD THE BLACKBIRD, AFTER KITTY REJOINS THE TEAM, AND STORM AND NIGHTCRAWLER BEGIN TO RECOVER FROM THEIR ORDEAL...
MAGNETO WENT TO...CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE TO...EXCAVATE AND PROTECT HIS COMPLEX.
I THINK THOSE FACTS ALONE CONFIRM PROFESSOR XAVIER'S FEARS. MAGNETO IS UP TO SOMETHING.
YEAH? BUT WHAT?! AN' WHEN IS HE GONNA STRIKE? AN' WHERE?! AN' MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, DARLIN', WHEN MAGGY FINALLY MAKES HIS MOVE...
HOW THE BLAZES ARE WE GONNA STOP HIM?

ROUGHLY 5,000 MILES NORTHWARDS, ON AN ISLAND IN THE HEART OF THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE, WE FIND SCOTT SUMMERS, STORM'S PREDECESSOR AS THE X-MEN'S LEADER.
YESTERDAY, LEE FORRESTER AND I FACED DEATH FROM EXPOSURE, THIRST, STARVATION. NOW, WE HAVE FOOD, CLOTHES, AND SHELTER--
--AND OUR SITUATION COULDN'T BE MORE DESPERATE.
BECAUSE THE MAN WHO SAVED US IS THE X-MEN'S OLDEST, DEADLIEST FOE--MAGNETO. HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME UNDER MY BLINDFOLD, AND LEE DIDN'T BLOW MY "COVER," BLESS HER, WHEN I GAVE HIM A FALSE NAME.
IF HE LEARNS MY TRUE IDENTITY, I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD!
;AHEM!;
LEE--?
PRINCESS LEE, IF THIS OUTFIT IS ANYTHING TO GO BY. I WISH YOU COULD SEE ME, BUT I'M KIND OF GLAD YOU CAN'T.
I'VE FELT MORE DRESSED SKINNY-DIPPING!
I THINK I KNOW THE FEELING. I MUST LOOK PRETTY BIZARRE MYSELF.
YOU LOOK LOVELY.
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?
FINE, CONSIDERING MY NEAR-TOTAL IGNORANCE OF THE SITUATION. SCOTT, WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?! WHY DOES MAGNETO SCARE YOU SO?
I'LL TELL YOU LATER. 'TIL THEN, TRUST ME, PLEASE.
GOOD MORNING. I TRUST YOU BOTH SLEPT WELL.
VERY WELL, THANK YOU.
EXCELLENT. BY THE WAY, CYCLOPS, YOU MAY REMOVE THAT RIDICULOUS BLINDFOLD IF YOU WISH...
SO LONG AS YOU REMAIN MY... GUEST, YOUR VAUNTED OPTIC BLASTS WILL NOT FUNCTION. YOU ARE QUITE HELPLESS--AND COMPLETELY AT MY MERCY.
NEXT ISSUE
A WORLD HELD HOSTAGE, WITH ONLY EIGHT LIVES STANDING BETWEEN IT AND ENSLAVEMENT! IN 30 DAYS:
I, MAGNETO!

X-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

LOUISE JONES
EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

When I was a very awkward teenager, the original X-MEN appeared. It was a godsend of sorts, helping me recover some sense of the goodness of an individuality I'd too often heard labelled "abnormal," "freakish," "gimpy," "weird," and worse. Throughout my high school days I read and enjoyed it. I loved it, but I always wanted some elusive thing more.

About two years ago when I decided to collect comics as a hobby, I was introduced to the new X-MEN. I fell in love with the comic, literally at first sight,and have come to love it more and more each passing month. You've created — and are continuing to create — one of the most striking cycles in modern mass (or folk) literature, of which comics are such an important branch, and something of very great personal meaning to me as well. The "more" I'd been wanting.

I — and my friends — encounter ourselves so beautifully in this book: in the violence and sensitivity of Wolverine, in Storm's poise and her hidden fears, in Peter's simplicity and his sometimes disastrous impetuosity, in Kitty's spunk and self-consciousness, and in all the myriad, exquisite illustrations of what's grand and funny and uptight and terrible about being human that abound in the heroes and villains and innocent bystanders who people the X-Men's adventures. Very much like the people of the ancient myths, your characters are larger than life but true-to-life representations of our species' experience — and of our own.

I failed to mention Kurt Wagner above because Nightcrawler is the most special of all the X-Men characters, new or old, to me. I alluded to being physically deformed earlier. I may not be pointy-eared and blue or able to go "bamf," but because my hands and feet are mis-shaped and I wear an artificial limb I can no more pass for "normal" than Kurt. So it is that his and my life experience and outlook most interlock; and he becomes both a mirror and a self-portrait of sorts, as well as a role model. Like Kurt, and sometimes with or through him, I discover that it truly is better to be a whole "me" than "normal," that humor helps defuse anger and to dissolve self-pity, that one's self is infinitely preferable to any "image," and so much more.

It's beautiful — very precious and beautiful — to see in 'Crawler month after month a deformed and physically challenged person endowed with courage, laughter, empathy, loyalty, slyness, skills, stubbornness, temper, anxieties, eccentricities, adventurousness, faith, a romantic spirit, sensuality, sensuousness, grace, charm, poise, self-pity, zaniness, seriousness, curiousity, playfulness, and by turns so many of our human traits. He's a terrific reminder of the ultimate truth too often put glibly and insincerely to America's millions of handicapped citizens: that "freaks" and "normals" share at heart one common human experience, one set of feelings and values and needs. I hope "the misfit" will be around for years — he's great company! — but if #141 were actually the last issue he ever appears in, I'd feel an enormous debt of gratitude towards those who collaborated on this book.

There aren't too many characters — in books, comics, movies or elsewhere — that us real-life "misfits" can lock onto to form or celebrate positive images of ourselves. (I can list examples on my fingers and toes: "The Elephant Man," "Long Ago, Tomorrow," "I Never Promised You A Rose Garden," some of Theodore Sturgeon's and Harlan Ellison's science-fiction stories, and the X-MEN.) So I thank you very, very much for entertainment, pleasure, intellectual stimulation, and your terrific example that different can be good — excellent, in fact!

You have my gratitude, admiration, affection and best wishes always.

Carolyn Amos
Fort Worth, TX

Just as there are stories that illuminate the human condition, there are letters that do the same. This is one of them. If ever we at Marvel — and this applies to *all* the creative writers and artists and letterers and colorists and editors, not merely those who work on the X-MEN — need a reason for doing what we do, or an incentive for doing it as well as humanly possible, this letter is it. We thank you for your most kind words, Carolyn. We'll ever strive to remain worthy of them.

Friends,

X-MEN #141..."Future Past." Claremont, you do such terrible things to your characters. Aaargh! I love it.

I like the scope of this story it spans the Marvel Universe of the present, past and potential with a sense of far-reaching doom. The Avengers gone, Defenders gone... seeing Franklin Richards gave a sense of reality. His death was a shock — after all, we knew this man when he was just a kid. And instead of becoming vague, this scope was kept in hand by being firmly anchored to the character of Kitty Pryde (or Kate Rasputin) who is at present the most interesting of the X-Men.

The graveyard of super heroes was a haunting scene.

Although I usually dislike monster robots, I like the Sentinels, probably because they have always been well-handled. Though I seldom like distopias (glum possible futures), this reminded me of one of the exceptions:Rich Buckler's grim world in "Deathlok," the best of the short-lived series of the 70's. Although I usually loathe alternate-future themes, I liked this one because it was convincing.

And the characters! It was so good to see them in maturity, both changed and unchanged. The future having implications for the present... Magnus, Franklin, and the suspiciously unnamed red-haired telepath-mutant meddling with the fabric of time.

Somewhere in the back of my head I had been grumbling to myself about the anti-climax following the death of Phoenix. No more.

Elizabeth Holden
120 Lewis St. / Apt.2
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0S7, Canada

Chris & John;

X-MEN #141 yielded one of the most innovative story lines to come out of Marvel in a long time. It was a most enjoyable comic One question, though: why didn't Havok take part in the mutant rebellion? He was listed as apprehended on the cover; why was he never mentioned in the story?

Frederick J. Schiller
P.O Box 287a
Lansing, IL 60438

The Havok wanted poster on Ish #141's cover, Fred, was an old, outdated one that had been up for a while. At the time of our story, he had not only been apprehended — but *executed,* too.

Dear X-cellant People:

I am a newcomer to Marvel Comics, but right from the beginning, X-MEN was my favorite. Your creative team is one of the best in Marvel.

Some comments on the latest issue #(142):

(1) Nightcrawler either has to be Mystique's brother or it's just a coincidence about their similar appearances, right?

(2) I agree with Storm: Kenya is a beautiful country, with beautiful landscapes and places and a surprising amount of wildlife (especially Masai Mara National Park).

(3) The rebuilding of the Sentinels is going to be a very good plot; I'm looking forward to it.

Andres Gomez
P.O. Box 47074
Nairobi, Kenya, Africa

Mystique could be related to Nightcrawler, Andres. Or she might not be. Time will tell. As for the Sentinels, watch for them in X-MEN #'s 151 and 152, on sale this summer.

NEXT ISSUE: Scott and Lee are the guests of the X-Men's bitterest enemy, Magneto! Meanwhile, Xavier — fearful that the Master of Magnetism is up to no good — sends the rest of the team to search his Antarctic stronghold (last seen in X-MEN #113, remember?). It looks deserted. And if those aren't famous last words...! In thirty days, true believers, things start happening with a vengeance. Be here! Aloha!

MINUTEMEN

Sy13nt
Bob